

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 134

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Maxine Roberts of Nashville, former Executive Assistant to Lieutenant Governor John S. Wilder.

WHEREAS, the members and the legislative staff of this body were deeply saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Maxine Roberts, whose personal grace and charm were shared with everyone she encountered during her four decades of service with the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated public servant who never met a stranger, Maxine Roberts served as the Executive Assistant to Lt. Governor John S. Wilder from 1971 until her retirement in 2007; and

WHEREAS, handling every assignment with tenacity, Ms. Roberts was responsible for Governor Wilder's constituent services and scheduling – a daunting task that placed her in daily contact with citizens from across Tennessee, who regardless of stature were treated with the utmost respect and dignity; and

WHEREAS, Maxine Roberts embarked upon her political career at age 13 in the community of Moss, in Clay County, Tennessee, working the polls for her uncle who was running for statewide office; she attended Draughon's Business College, and went to work for the State of Tennessee following graduation. Maxine also found time to work weekends for fifteen years doing promotional work for Polaroid and later worked for Dr. Charles McDonald; and

WHEREAS, Maxine went to work for Lieutenant Governor Wilder when he became Speaker of the Senate in 1971, and quickly became an active member of the Tennessee Federation of Democratic Women and an expert on Tennessee state government; she was

elected as a delegate from seventeen counties to the National Democratic Party for the Honorable Al Gore and attended many National Democratic Conventions; and

WHEREAS, Maxine Roberts was a member of the Women's Political Caucus, the Executaries Club and served on the board of directors of Tennessee Leadership; she also served on the board of the National Conference of State Legislative Leadership Staff, the committee for the Governor's Prayer Breakfast and coordinated a National Lieutenant Governors' Conference as well as a Southern Legislative Conference; and

WHEREAS, among her many duties, Maxine Roberts played a key role in the vetting of appointments to the Tennessee Economic Council on Women by Governor Wilder and served as his contact for that esteemed committee; and

WHEREAS, a strong voice for women statewide, she was a member of the Davidson County Democratic Women, the Tennessee Women's Political Caucus, the Nashville Women's Political Caucus, CABLE, the Tennessee League of Women Voters, the Nashville League of Women Voters, and WIN (Women in Numbers); and

WHEREAS, a member of the Board of Directors of the Democratic Women of Tennessee, Maxine Roberts was honored on October 16, 2003, by the Davidson County Democratic Women and the Council of Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County when they proclaimed it "Maxine Day" in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Maxine Roberts was the epitome of a majestic Southern lady with an indomitable spirit and a joyous love of life; she was exceedingly kind and gracious and always willing to help anyone in need, because she loved people and believed the best in everyone; and

WHEREAS, with her passing, Maxine Roberts has left behind an indelible legacy of effective public service that will not soon be equaled; and

WHEREAS, preceded in death by her parents, Harley and Selma Roberts, Ms. Roberts is survived by her sister, Betty Fay Lewis; a brother, Ralph Roberts; a niece, Kim Roberts; a nephew, David Lewis; a great nephew, Samuel Lewis; great nieces, Ruby and Tabitha Lewis; and a host of dear friends and former colleagues; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute and remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Maxine Roberts, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character, her exemplary service to the State of Tennessee, and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Maxine Roberts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.